

Notwithstanding the above changes in their living conditions, Onge go for their traditional activities like hunting, food gathering and fishing in the vast forest area and the sea around the little Andaman Island. A Primary School is functioning at the Dugong Creek Onge Settlement with 2 teachers to impart basic education among the Onges. To facilitate this, the Administration had requested the Central Institute of Indian Language (CIIL) to prepare primers in the Onge Language which has since been done by them. Due to the efforts of the Administration, some of the Onges are educated, though so far the highest educated Onge has studied up to the Vth standard only.

Some of the Onges have got employment in Govt. Departments like Shipping etc. and in other Establishment. Onges have their own Co-operative Society known as Onge Multipurpose Co-operative Society through which the coconuts are sold and items of their requirements are provided at their settlement.

Onges have exercised their adult franchise during the Lok Sabha Elections not only in the past but also in the Parliamentary Election which took place on 5.9.99. The Chief of the Onge (Raja) was one of the members of the erstwhile Pradesh Council, A&N Islands. The Panchayati Raj Institutions like Zilla Parishad has been created in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in accordance with the Constitutional Amendment Act. The Chief of the Onges is one of the member of District Planning Committee of the Zilla Parishad, A&N Islands. As such the Onges of Little Andaman Islands are described as a "partially acculturated" tribal group in anthropological terms. They are no longer a hostile and isolated primitive tribe like the Sentinelese of North Sentinel Island. Onges of Little Andaman island are at the "transitional stage" to join the national mainstream. However, there appears to be no possibility of reversing the natural process of their "acculturation" at this point of time. In fact they require further protection and assistance from the Govt. so that such a small tribe would survive and prosper as one of the communities in India.

That the Onge tribe today in comparison with certain other indigenous tribes show a marked tendency towards sedentarism and have also got wage employment in their own settled way of life, even though, they have not in any way forsaken their traditional practice as hunters and gatherers. The Onges both at Dugong Creek and South Bay continue to forage, in fact they hunt turtles and fish and are very comfortable at sea. They design their own boats